

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2109 without my signature.

Investing in the professional development of our teachers and school principals is very important to the academic success of our students. Using data to evaluate how to most effectively use these resources is valuable and best done at the school district level by teachers and principals. What is effective for one school or district may not be for another.

It is unclear how this bill will impact existing practice or provide an incentive for districts to improve their current practices. Effective school districts already analyze test results using the data as a tool to better target efforts and resources to improve academic performance, particularly those resources that directly impact student achievement and instructional delivery. Furthermore, it is questionable if the data analysis required in the bill is an appropriate method of determining professional development for teachers. Districts may also wish to consider other factors such as teacher credential and experience information in determining the appropriate level, amount, and type of professional development for its teachers.

Considering the bill does not require districts to implement model strategies to better analyze disaggregated data or impose consequences for those not targeting funds to achieve significant improvement, this directive will not achieve its intended goal.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger